Indicted man wanted Marina's story

By EARL GOLZ

Charles W. Deaton, one of eight indicted here Thursday on fraud charges in a silver ore investment deal, came close to acquiring the exclusive rights to the story of the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald in 1964.

Deaton's attempt to buy the rights to the Marina Oswald story for $75,000 subsequently resulted in the dismissal of her business manager and attorney.

They were replaced, at the urging of Oswald' brother Robert by Dallas attorney William A. McKenzie in February ,1964. McKenzie is chairman of the Republican Party of Dallas County.

Deaton, being held in a West German jail in connection with the silver fraud charges, had drawn a contract for exclusive rights to the Marina Oswald story for television and motion pictures, according to a Warren Commission document publicly released in 1970.

The document, an FBI report dated May 21, 1964, said the proposed Oswald contract was found in a small black bag taken among other business papers when Deaton was arrested on fraud charges six days earlier in New York.

The contract, dated Feb. 11, 1964, called for transferring the movie and television rights from Marina Oswald's business manager, James H. Martin, to a film company organized by Deaton and three other men.

The contract stipulated a consideration of $75,000 for the transfer but provided for a more detailed contract within 20 working days, the FBI report said. Attached to the contract was a photostat dated Dec. 6, 1963, addressed to Martin and signed by Marina Oswald, giving Martin her authorization to handle her personal and business affairs.

Martin and Marina had met during the short interval when she lived at the Inn of the Six Flags after the assassination, when she was under protection of the U.S. Secret Service. Martin then was the assistant manager of the motel and was introduced to Marina by Secret Service agents.

On Feb. 14, 1964, three days after the Deaton contract was dated, Marina wrote a letter dismissing Martin as business manager and John M. Thorne of Grand Prairie as her attorney.